

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A writing instrument, comprising:  
an elongated first barrel portion that  
comprises an open first end through which a writing  
element is extendable, and an opposite open second end;  
5 a transparent, hollow second barrel portion  
that comprises an open third end and an opposite fourth  
end, and wherein the third end is secured within the  
second end of the first barrel portion;  
a fluid disposed within the hollow second  
10 barrel portion; and  
a plug disposed within the third end, wherein  
the plug prevents the fluid from escaping from the  
hollow second barrel portion.

15 2. The writing instrument of Claim 1:  
wherein the third end has an annular rim, an  
internal surface and an external surface; and  
wherein the plug comprises a shank and a head  
portion connected to the shank, wherein the head  
20 portion extends radially outward from the shank to  
define a circumferential shoulder, wherein the shank is  
disposed within the third end and the shoulder is in  
contacting relationship with the annular rim, and  
wherein the head portion tapers radially inward such  
25 that the head portion does not contact an inside  
surface of the first barrel portion second end and such  
that flexure of the first and second barrel portions  
relative to one another does not cause the head portion  
to contact the inside surface of the first barrel  
30 portion second end.

3. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
wherein the third end is adhesively secured within the

second end.

4. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
wherein the third end is threadingly secured within the  
5 second end.

5. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
wherein the second barrel portion and plug each  
comprise polymeric material and wherein the plug is  
10 sonically welded to the third end.

6. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
wherein the fluid is translucent, and further  
comprising at least one object disposed within the  
15 hollow second barrel portion, wherein the at least one  
object is configured to move through the translucent  
fluid when the writing instrument is inverted relative  
to horizontal, and wherein movement of the at least one  
object is viewable through the transparent second  
20 barrel portion.

7. The writing instrument of Claim 6,  
wherein the at least one object is configured to be  
buoyant within the fluid.  
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8. The writing instrument of Claim 6,  
wherein the at least one object comprises promotional  
indicia thereon.

9. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
further comprising a second fluid disposed within the  
hollow second barrel portion, and wherein the two  
fluids are insoluble in each other.  
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10. The writing instrument of Claim 1,  
further comprising a light configured to illuminate the  
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fluid within the hollow second barrel portion.

11. The writing instrument of Claim 10,  
wherein the light is disposed within the first barrel  
5 portion second end.

12. The writing instrument of Claim 10,  
further comprising:

a power source; and  
10 a switch in communication with the light and  
power source, wherein the switch is responsive to user  
activation for switching the light on and off.

13. A writing instrument, comprising:  
15 an elongated first barrel portion that  
comprises an open first end through which a writing  
element is extendable, and an opposite open second end;  
a transparent, hollow second barrel portion  
that comprises an open third end and an opposite fourth  
20 end, and wherein the third end is secured within the  
second end of the first barrel portion;  
a translucent fluid disposed within the  
hollow second barrel portion;  
at least one object disposed within the  
25 hollow second barrel portion, wherein the at least one  
object is configured to move through the translucent  
fluid when the writing instrument is inverted relative  
to horizontal, and wherein movement of the at least one  
object within the fluid is viewable through the  
30 transparent second barrel portion;  
a plug disposed within the third end, wherein  
the plug prevents the fluid from escaping from the  
hollow second barrel portion; and  
a light configured to illuminate the fluid  
35 within the hollow second barrel portion.

14. The writing instrument of Claim 13:  
wherein the third end has an annular rim, an  
internal surface and an external surface; and  
wherein the plug comprises a shank and a head  
5 portion connected to the shank, wherein the head  
portion extends radially outward from the shank to  
define a circumferential shoulder, wherein the shank is  
disposed within the third end and the shoulder is in  
contacting relationship with the annular rim, and  
10 wherein the head portion tapers radially inward such  
that the head portion does not contact an inside  
surface of the first barrel portion second end and such  
that flexure of the first and second barrel portions  
relative to one another does not cause the head portion  
15 to contact the inside surface of the first barrel  
portion second end.

15. The writing instrument of Claim 13,  
wherein the at least one object is configured to be  
20 buoyant within the fluid.

16. The writing instrument of Claim 13,  
wherein the at least one object comprises promotional  
indicia thereon.  
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17. The writing instrument of Claim 13,  
further comprising a second fluid disposed within the  
hollow second barrel portion, and wherein the two  
fluids are insoluble in each other.  
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18. The writing instrument of Claim 13,  
wherein the light is disposed within the first barrel  
portion second end.

19. The writing instrument of Claim 13,  
further comprising:  
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a power source; and

a switch in communication with the light and power source, wherein the switch is responsive to user activation for switching the light on and off.

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20. A writing instrument, comprising:

an elongated first barrel portion that comprises an open first end through which a writing element is extendable, and an opposite open second end;

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a transparent, hollow second barrel portion that comprises an open third end and an opposite fourth end, and wherein the third end is secured within the second end of the first barrel portion;

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a translucent fluid disposed within the hollow second barrel portion;

a plug disposed within the third end;

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a light configured to illuminate the fluid within the hollow second barrel portion, wherein the light is disposed within the first barrel portion second end;

a power source; and

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a switch in communication with the light and power source, wherein the switch is responsive to user activation for switching the light on and off.

21. The writing instrument of Claim 20:

wherein the third end has an annular rim, an internal surface and an external surface; and

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wherein the plug comprises a shank and a head portion connected to the shank, wherein the head portion extends radially outward from the shank to define a circumferential shoulder, wherein the shank is disposed within the third end and the shoulder is in contacting relationship with the annular rim, and

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wherein the head portion tapers radially inward such that the head portion does not contact an inside

surface of the first barrel portion second end and such  
that flexure of the first and second barrel portions  
relative to one another does not cause the head portion  
to contact the inside surface of the first barrel  
5 portion second end.

22. The writing instrument of Claim 20,  
wherein the second barrel portion and plug each  
comprise polymeric material and wherein the plug is  
10 sonically welded to the third end.

23. The writing instrument of Claim 20,  
wherein the fluid is translucent, and further  
comprising at least one object disposed within the  
15 hollow second barrel portion, wherein the at least one  
object is configured to move through the translucent  
fluid when the writing instrument is inverted relative  
to horizontal, and wherein movement of the at least one  
object is viewable through the transparent second  
20 barrel portion.

24. The writing instrument of Claim 20,  
wherein the at least one object is configured to be  
buoyant within the fluid.  
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25. The writing instrument of Claim 23,  
wherein the at least one object comprises promotional  
indicia thereon.

30 26. The writing instrument of Claim 20,  
further comprising a second fluid disposed within the  
hollow second barrel portion, and wherein the two  
fluids are insoluble in each other.